

U.S.S.N. 10/709,206

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In The Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] It is thus highly desirable to produce a ~~modular~~ synthetic grass surface having desired playability while being easy to install and remove that is especially ideal for use in indoor multipurpose sporting arenas.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] A plurality of modular units, having the optional corrugated plastic sheet removed, are then installed onto a relatively flat surface to form the playing surface in a desired shape and size. The installation of each modular unit is accomplished by using forklifts or other suitable equipment to move the modular units to the desired location to form the synthetic grass playing surface. The modular units are then preferably fastened together to form the larger field surface.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Figure 1 illustrates a top view of sports playing surface 20, here a football field, according to one embodiment of the present invention. The surface 20 has two or more synthetic grass modular units 22 placed in a desired configuration onto the floor of a sports facility 24, preferably an indoor stadium. However, the sports playing surface 20 can be utilized at any sports facility. The number of units 22 is determined by the overall width (w) of the field 20 extending from a first lengthwise side 26 to a second lengthwise side 28 (shown as the left side and right side respectively on Figure 1) and by the overall length (l) of the field 20 extending from a first widthwise side 30 to a second widthwise side 32.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The playing surface 20 may have a series of numbers 34, letters 36, logos 38, yard lines 40, sideline markings 42 [[, or]] and/or other markings 44 (collectively features 46), preferably inlaid or stenciled, within or on the surface of one or more modular units 22.

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Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] As best shown in Figure 2, each modular unit 22 has a rectangular or square-shaped base structure 50 consisting of a series of two or more smaller pallets 52 fastened together. In the embodiment as shown in Figure 2, the modular unit 22 is formed of four smaller pallets 52 fastened together. Each pallet 52, in its preferred configuration, is approximately four feet wide by six feet long and about 5-8 inches in height. The pallet 52 is fully reversible, in which the top surface 54 and bottom surface 56 are flat and able to receive the subsequently laid playing surface (shown as 64 in Figure 3). The pallets 52 are also stackable. Each pallet 52 is preferably pre-drilled with a 7/16 inch drill at all corners and centered on the widthwise side (i.e. at about 2 feet from each corner). Each side of the pallet 52 has openings 60 through which the forks of a forklift may be introduced. One pallet 52 currently manufactured that meets these desired requirements is Orvis' 48-inch by 72-inch pallets. The pallets 52 are then fastened together with 3/8-inch all-thread rods with coarse-thread hex nuts and with 5/16-inch washers on top and bottom. In the embodiment described in Figure 2, the modular unit 22 weighs approximately 440 pounds and has about 96.5 square feet along the top playing surface 64. Further, where modular units 22 are formed from two base structures that are 8 feet wide by 18 feet long, a 3.5 inch by 1 inch C-channel (not shown) is formed through the center of the unit 22 (i.e. between base structures 50) for stabilization purposes. It will be understood that the modular units 22 can take on a variety of other sizes and shapes.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] In addition, the strands 66 are stitched into the backing layer 68 at a stitch rate of between about 7 and 24 stitches per 3-inch period. The strands 66 have a gauge of between 1/8 and $1/2$ inch, depending upon the end use application of the field. The smaller the gauge, the plusher the field. In addition, a smaller gauge adds additional barriers to prevent the movement of the infill 96 during use and weather conditions such as rainfall and wind, as additional rows of strands 80 physically prevent infill 96 movement.